



LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – Adopted
on April 24, 2014 at the Policy Committee Meeting #2

March 13, 2014 • 10:00AM
State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA

Present:

Mr. Robert Adley, Senate, Louisiana State Senate
Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, PE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Chair)
Mr. Stephen Moret, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development
Mr. Charles E. “Chuck” Kleckley, Speaker of the House, Louisiana State House of Representatives
Mr. Stephen E. Pugh, Representative, Louisiana State House of Representatives
Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council
Mr. Mike Walsworth, Senator, Louisiana State Senate

Absent:

Mr. John A. Alario, President of the Senate, Louisiana State Senate
Ms. Karen Gaudet St. Germain, Representative, Louisiana State House of Representatives

Other Attendees:

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, PE, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development
Mr. Robert “Butch” Babineaux, PE, Consultant, CDM Smith

MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of the 2003 Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan; Process for Update
- Discussion of Policy Committee’s role
- Review of current Statewide Transportation Plan Update; Scope Of Work; Ongoing activities; Schedule
- Review of Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures
- Open Discussion
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting Date
- Final Comments; Adjourn

MEETING SUMMARY

Secretary Sheri LeBas welcomed the Policy Committee members and led a round of introductions. Dr. Eric Kalivoda with DOTD gave a brief presentation on the overview of the 2003 Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan and the process for the Update. He explained the Policy Committee’s role and reviewed the status and schedule of the current Plan Update. He then reviewed the Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures and opened the floor for discussion. A summary of the discussion follows:

- Senator Adley noted his concern with increased traffic congestion along I-10 especially in Baton Rouge area. Dr. Kalivoda indicated the significant truck traffic (13,000/day) and cost to widen I-10 between the Mississippi River Bridge and I-10/I-12 split. DOTD is hopeful that this section of I-10 will be designated a freight project in the ongoing Statewide Freight Plan so it would be eligible for a 95 percent/5 percent federal/state funding share.
- Mr. Scott asked what the major differences were between the goals and objectives between the earlier 2003 Plan and this Plan update. Dr. Kalivoda clarified that the previous goals and objectives were primarily combined and consolidated for this current Plan Update.



- Senator Adley asked about the viability of GARVEE bonds as a potential funding source. Dr. Kalivoda noted that GARVEE bonds need a steady funding stream and DOTD would recommend against using them until federal funding is more stable.
- Senator Walsworth requested DOTD provide the Committee with a summary of progress made in implementing some of the recommendations included in the last Plan Update over the past 10 years.
- In response to question by Senator Walsworth regarding the status and completion of the TIMED program, Dr. Kalivoda noted the total construction cost of the projects is about \$5 billion and bonds are scheduled to be paid off in 2045. Additionally, the dedicated 4 cents/gallon brings in about \$120m/year.
- Secretary Moret indicated the conflict between the Statewide Plan's desired vision of a focus on small and medium sized cities compared to the preference of many large companies (professional jobs) for good air service (flight frequency and direct flights) that is typically associated with large metropolitan areas. Although rural areas can be attractive to manufacturing jobs, people prefer to be no more than 30 minutes from urban areas.
- Robert Scott cautioned DOTD to not put too much emphasis on the legislative and public survey results in developing the Plan Update but rather recognize what people want does not necessarily correlate with what they say in surveys.
- Secretary LeBas indicated that the Committee needed more time to review the vision, goals and objectives before approving them.
- It was suggested that the next Policy Committee meeting be held near the end of March preferably on a Wednesday. This should give Committee members more time to review and comment on the information presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary LeBas adjourned the meeting.